



**Director of
Central
Intelligence**

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National Intelligence Daily

***Saturday
22 May 1982***

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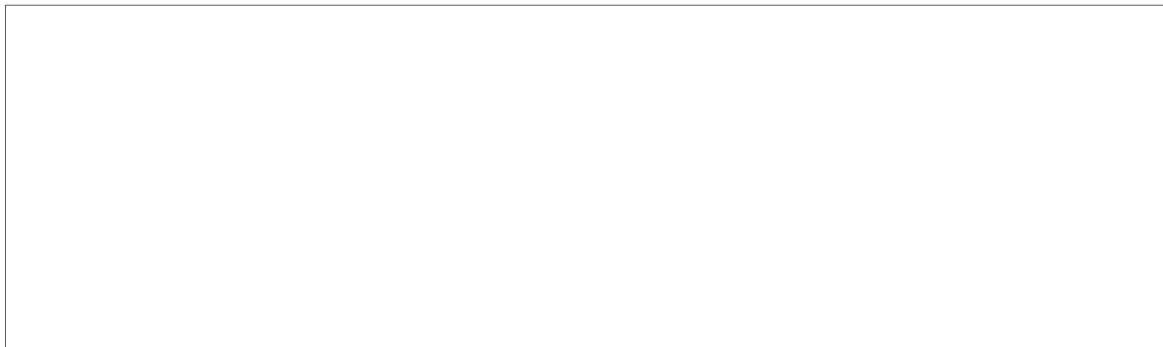
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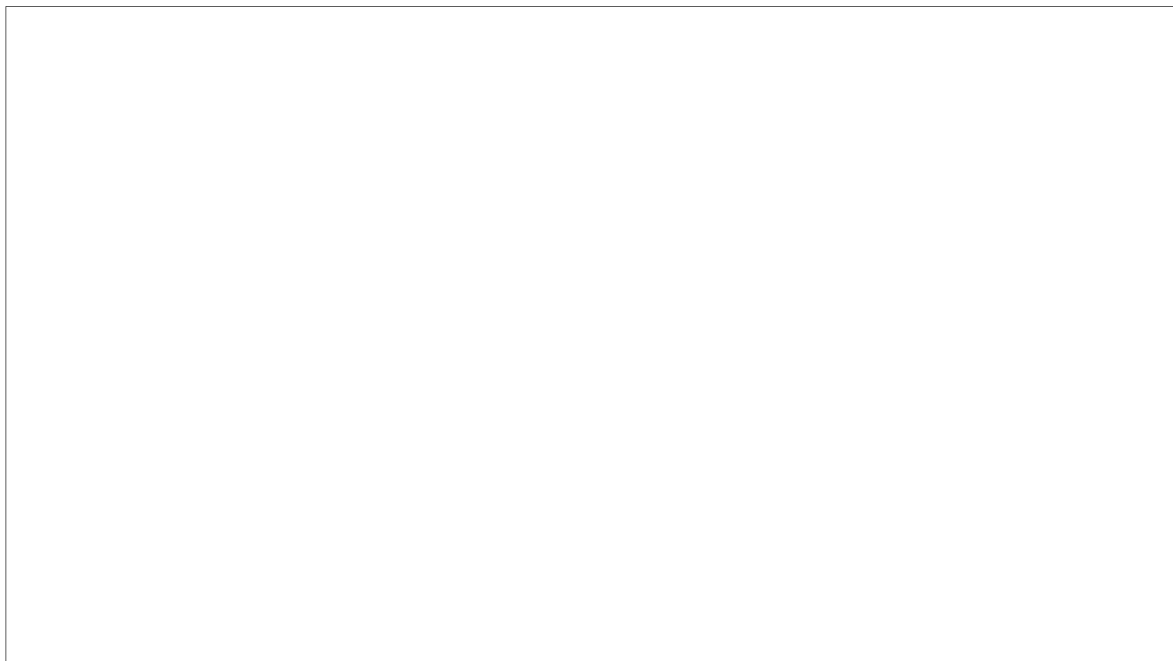
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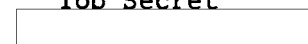
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USSR-ITALY: Communist Party Relations

The Soviets want to improve their relations with the Italian Communist Party, which were badly strained earlier this year over the issue of Poland. [redacted]

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A senior Soviet party official recently stressed in an article in a left-leaning Italian newspaper that Moscow still considers the Italian party a major fraternal party and does not want to pursue the polemics over Poland.

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Comment: Both the Soviets and the Italian Communists have indicated over the past few months that they want to avoid an open break. Similar periods of rapprochement followed earlier disputes over the Vietnamese-Kampuchean conflict, Afghanistan and other issues. [redacted]

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Moscow's concern for ideological orthodoxy may now be outweighed by tactical considerations. The Soviets' desire to spur the peace movement in Western Europe appears to dictate cooperation with the Italian party and other independent groups also opposed to NATO INF deployments. [redacted]

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Berlinguer may stop over in Beijing and Belgrade to demonstrate the Italian Communists' ability to maintain a dialogue with all other important capitals of world Communism. [redacted]

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